

AS
cont. *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum, Corynebacterium melassecola, Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum, and Brevibacterium divaricatum.*

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure at page 29 and replace the same with the substitute Abstract enclosed herewith.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

The claims have been amended for clarity. Support for the amendment to the claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the above amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 9 are canceled. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-39 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above and the remarks below.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Kerr for her helpful comments during the courteous discussion of the present application held on March 11, 2003. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Kerr for her helpful suggestions in overcoming the rejections in the outstanding Office Action.

Finally, Applicants thank Examiner Kerr for indicating that she has noted Applicants' Request for Rejoinder of the process claims with allowable products.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 14, 16, 19 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Pompejus et al. and/or Makagawa et al. is believed to be obviated by the remarks below. The Examiner recognizes that the foreign priority application 10039043.9 was filed in Germany on August 10, 2000 (see paragraph 3 of page 3 in the outstanding Office Action).